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To: Commissioner For Patent
Examiner, James S. Wozniak

Firm: United State Patent and Trademark Office
Group Art Unit 2626

Fax No. 571 273-8300

From: William S. Frommer

Date: April 3, 2008

Re: US Patent Application No. 10/617,347
Sony Ref.: S03P0857US00
Sony IPD: Naoyuki Hirota
Our Ref.: 450100-04657

No. of Pages: 3
(including cover page)

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PATENT
450100-04657

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kondo, Tetsujiro, et al.
Serial No. : 10/617,347
For : INFORMATION ENCODING APPARATUS AND
METHOD, INFORMATION DECODING APPARATUS
AND METHOD, RECORDING MEDIUM UTILIZING
SPECTRAL SWITCHING FOR EMBEDDING
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN AN AUDIO SIGNAL (AS
AMENDED)
Filed : July 10, 2003
Examiner : Wozniak, James S.
Art Unit : 2626
Confirmation No. : 2741

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Signature

April 3, 2008

Date of Signature

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which
accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed January 28, 2008. To the extent the Examiner's

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450100-04657

Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

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